

REMARKS

An ABSTRACT is added.

The rejection of method claim 1 under 35 USC 102 is traversed on the basis of controlling spraying nozzles for spraying a liquid as originally claimed. Thus, although other elements of claim 1 are edited, such is non-narrowing and, therefore, does not invoke any Festo-like limitations.

The Cook patent discloses conduits 32, 34 and 36 for supplying moisture-laden air to intake air. These conduits would not be expected to spray, because they supply air, are not described in the patent as spraying, and are shown by arrows in Fig. 1 of the patent not to spray as claimed in claim 1.

The Cook patent also disclosed spray nozzles 68 for spraying liquid into air to provide the moisture-laden air for the conduits. It is a stretch, however, to say that the spray nozzles spray into the intake air, because the intake air is at 10 at the opposite end of the apparatus from the spray nozzles 68 as shown in Fig. 1 of the patent. Even if this were said, however, claim 1 differs by opening more or larger spraying nozzles or closing one or using a smaller spraying nozzle when increase or decrease of liquid is desired. Fig. 1 of the Cook patent clearly shows that the spray nozzles are either all on or all off with no differentiation of size, either, for increased (on) or decreased (off) liquid supply.

As a result, it is clear that constant pressure is not maintained in the supply pipes to spray nozzles 68, as in claim 2, and valves 38, 40 and 42 deny this for conduits 32, 34 and 36.

Claims 10 - 12 add distinction of the spraying method.

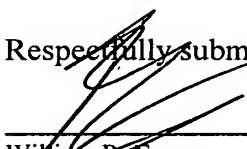
Method claim 13 is already allowable.

Apparatus claim 14 maintains but refines the spraying nozzle distinction of claim 1 by such spraying as a mist with a control system, both as originally claimed. Thus, although other elements of claim 14 are edited, such is non-narrowing and, therefore, does not invoke any Festo-like limitations.

The Cook patent does not disclose spraying into a duct for intake air, the intake manifold 10 of the patent being long after and far away from any spraying. Further, none of the controls disclosed in the Cook patent give impulses for control of valve elements in liquid supply flow channels.

Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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